

health; and like Levar and all of his young colleagues who are here with us today, to reintroduce eagles in places where they had long ago disappeared. Most important of all, we made the Endangered Species Act the law of the land, declaring that extinction is not an option—not for the eagle, not for other creatures put here by God.

Thanks to these efforts, the bald eagle is now back from the brink, thriving in virtually every State of the Union. When I became President, I'm proud to say, my State had the second largest number of bald eagles in the country. But now they are everywhere, and we are very, very happy about it.

Today I am pleased to announce that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is taking the first step to remove the American bald eagle from the endangered species list. It's hard to think of a better way to celebrate the birth of a nation than to celebrate the rebirth of our national symbol.

The return of the bald eagle is a fitting cap to a century of environmental stewardship, charted for us in the beginning by one of our greatest conservationists, President Theodore Roosevelt. I am proud of what we have tried to do to fulfill his legacy—from the Yellowstone to California's ancient redwoods to the Mojave Desert to the spectacular red rock canyons of Utah. And just yesterday Vice President Gore announced the largest environmental restoration effort in history, our plan to save the precious Florida Everglades.

In all these efforts we honor Teddy Roosevelt's ideal of leaving our Nation even a better land for our descendants than it is for us. And now, on the threshold of a new century, at a moment of unparalleled prosperity, we have an historic opportunity to deepen our commitment to conservation and to make it permanent.

The balanced budget I proposed for the coming year includes \$1 billion for a lands legacy initiative, the largest annual investment ever proposed for the protection of America's lands. This initiative would expand our efforts to preserve critical wildlife habitat and other national treasures. It would provide new assistance to communities to protect farms, city parks, and other local green spaces.

In addition, I have also proposed guaranteed funding of \$1 billion a year every year to sustain these efforts into the new century. I was disappointed that earlier this week committees in both the House and the Senate voted to cut deeply into this request of the coming year, including funds to help to keep other wildlife from becoming endangered in the first place. All through our century we have found ways to pull together across party lines to stand up for the environment, for wildlife, for our natural heritage. I hope we can do that again.

It took all Americans to save the bald eagle—people in places where you would expect the bald eagle, and people in places where we had forgotten the bald eagle ever existed, like Washington, DC. Now that we have the bald eagle back, let's get the spirit behind the bald eagle back, and put America back on a bipartisan American course of conservation of our natural resources.

You know, when Hillary talked to me about starting this millennium project and devoting ourselves this year and next year to giving gifts to the country for the new millennium, she came up with this phrase, "honor the past and imagine the future." More than any other area, the environment and dealing with our natural resources gives us a chance to do both things at the same time. By saving the bald eagle and bringing it back home to the Nation's Capital, these young people have honored our past. They have also imagined a future in which we give all of our children a chance to get a good education and to have a good income and a thriving economy where we no longer destroy our natural resources, but instead, build them up. It is the past, and it must be the future.

Thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Levar Simms, member, Eagle Corps, a program of the Earth Conservation Corps; and Al Louis Cecere, founder and president, National Foundation to Protect America's Eagles, who handled the eagle.

### **Remarks Following Discussions With President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea and an Exchange With Reporters**

*July 2, 1999*

**President Clinton.** Let me begin by welcoming President Kim and his delegation to the United States. He is a remarkable leader and a person that all of us very much admire. And in the last year, we have seen an astonishing turnaround in the Korean economy, going from a period of contraction to a period of quite robust growth, in ways that no one could have predicted. It's a great, great success story. And I congratulated President Kim on that, and then we talked some, and we will talk more in our meeting after this of our security partnership.

#### ***Northern Ireland Peace Process***

The second thing I would like to say very briefly is, I think all of you know that the British and Irish Prime Ministers have issued their proposal for the way forward on the Irish peace process. And I think this is a very welcome development. It gives us a chance to fulfill the Good Friday accords. It gives the people of Northern Ireland, both Protestant and Catholic, a chance to shape their destiny and govern themselves. It gives us a chance to put an end to guns and violence forever. And the United States intends to support their efforts and to hold all the parties to their commitments. I think that is very, very important.

This is a major opportunity to resolve that difficult problem forever, in ways that are good for all the people there. So it's good news.

#### ***South Korean Military Technology***

**Q.** Mr. President, do you plan to support the South Koreans' bid to make a long-range missile—develop a long-range missile that could possibly hit their northern neighbor?

**President Clinton.** Well, we're going to have our security discussion after this, and I think that we should talk about it before I make a public comment.

#### ***Northern Ireland Peace Process***

**Q.** Sir, to those who are dissatisfied with the proposals outlined by the Prime Ministers today, what would you say?

**President Clinton.** I would say, first of all, let's look at how far we've come. All the parties to the Good Friday accord—and large majorities in Northern Ireland—agree on the commitments that everyone has and how it should look at the end.

This whole argument has been over the sequencing of, how do you stand up the government; how do you get on with decommissioning? No one disputes the fact that everything has to be done by next May, on the decommissioning, for example. No one disputes the fact that everyone who got a certain percentage of the vote in the last election is entitled to be part of the executive.

And so I would say to those who are dissatisfied, first of all, everybody's got to comply with everything. One of the things this proposal does is to reaffirm that. So who can be dissatisfied with that?

Secondly, if you are afraid that the decommissioning won't occur, therefore, you don't want to stand up the government, my answer to that is that the Prime Ministers have offered to pass a bill through the British Parliament, which will make it clear that if General de Chastelain's commission's timetable is not kept, that the whole thing can be brought down.

So I would say to those who are skeptical, there are guarantees here. No one is going to get something for nothing. Everybody's going to have to fulfill the word of the Good Friday accord. And so don't let this thing come apart now.

Would you like to make a statement, Mr. President?

**President Kim.** This is my third meeting with President Clinton, and our third meeting in less than 2 years. And this clearly demonstrates the closeness of the bilateral relations between Korea and the United States. And I do hope that these close ties of cooperation will continue to be further strengthened.

I am extremely satisfied with the present state of relations between the two countries. We are meeting in close coordination on all issues—on economic issues, as well as security issues. And I do hope that this close cooperation sends a clear message to North Korea.

Thank you very much.

*Q.* Thank you.

**President Clinton.** Thank you all.

#### **President's Plans for the Fourth of July**

*Q.* What are you doing for the Fourth of July?

**President Clinton.** We're going to be around here, watch the fireworks on The Mall.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:18 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; and Gen. John de Chastelain, Canadian Defense Forces, member and chair, Independent International Commission on Decommissioning. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

#### **Radio Remarks on the Observance of Independence Day, 1999**

*July 2, 1999*

This weekend, as we celebrate the 223d anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the birthday of our great Nation, let us reflect on what it means to be an American.

Let us remember the visionaries, the patriots, and the soldiers who were inspired by a single ideal, that we are all created equal. And let us strive to honor that ideal today and every day by building a world where every individual can make the most of his or her talents and know what it truly means to live and breathe free.

On this, the last Independence Day of the 20th century, Hillary and I wish you a happy and memorable Fourth of July.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 1 p.m. on June 29 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for later broadcast on the Fourth of July. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2. These remarks were also made available on the

White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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#### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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##### **June 25**

In the evening, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton went to Camp David, MD.

##### **June 27**

In the evening, the President returned to the White House.

##### **June 28**

In the morning, the President traveled to Westport, CT, and in the afternoon, he traveled to New York City.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Monroe Miles to be Ambassador to Bulgaria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael E. Ranneberger to be Ambassador to Mali.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carl Spielvogel to be Ambassador to Slovakia.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia for a working luncheon on July 12.

##### **June 29**

The President announced his intention to nominate Barbro A. Owens-Kirkpatrick to be Ambassador to Niger.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles A. Blanchard to be General Counsel of the Army.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carol DiBattiste to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.